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**Title:**

Speech opening 'The News' Jubilee Exhibition, Art Gallery

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SPEECH BY THE PREMIER, MR. DUNSTAN, OPENING "THE NEWS"

JUBILEE EXHIBITION. ART GALLERY.

24.7.73

YOUR EXCELLENCY, YOUR HONOUR, MY MINISTERIAL AND PARLIAMENTARY COLLEAGUES, SIR NORMAN YOUNG, MR. BOLAND, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN; THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR ASKING ME TO OPEN THESE TWO EXHIBITIONS.

THEY PUT ON DISPLAY GRAPHICALLY TWO OF THE MOST VITAL FUNCTIONS OF ANY NEWSPAPER - THE RESPONSIBILITY TO ILLUSTRATE EVENTS AND TO COMMENT ON THEM.

"FREEDOM OF THE PRESS" IS AN OFTEN-HEARD CATCHPHRASE. BUT, HURRIEDLY UTTERED, IT IS TOO OFTEN IGNORED OR FLOUTED. A SOCIETY IN WHICH THE PRESS IS NOT FREE TO BE OUTRAGEOUS, STUBBORN, OR JUST PLAIN CANTAKEROUS IS A SICK SOCIETY.

2.

MODERN HISTORY IS STREWN WITH EXAMPLES OF SOCIETIES IN WHICH THE LIGHTS HAVE BEEN SNUFFED IN THE EDITORIAL ROOMS SHORTLY BEFORE THEY HAVE BEEN PUT OUT IN THE COURTS AND THE PARLIAMENTS.

PRESS FREEDOM MAY NOT BE CONVENIENT TO AN ESTABLISHMENT - AS A PRACTISING POLITICIAN I'VE OFTEN FELT A LITTLE INCONVENIENCED MYSELF - BUT IT IS FUNDAMENTAL TO ANY DEMOCRACY AND IT IS NOT NEGOTIABLE.

FREEDOM TO COMMENT IS AS ESSENTIAL AS FREEDOM TO REPORT AND NO COMMENT CAN BE MORE TELLING THAN THAT OF A GOOD CARTOONIST.

THE CARTOONIST AIDS OUR SENSE OF PROPORTION - AND OUR SOCIETY. HE IS THE GREAT DEBUNKER.

IF, AT THE SAME TIME, HE HAS COMPASSION AND AN ABIDING HATRED OF INJUSTICE THE RESULT CAN BE DEVASTATING.

3.

HERE, AUSTRALIA HAS AN EXTRAORDINARILY RICH RECORD. CARTOONISTS SUCH AS HOP OF THE BULLETIN, PHIL MAY, NORMAN LINDSAY, LOW AND DYSON ESTABLISHED A TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE THAT HAS BEEN RECOGNISED HERE AND OVERSEAS.

RIGBY, OLIPHANT AND THE BRILLIANT BRUCE PETTY ARE READY EXAMPLES TO SHOW THAT THIS TRADITION IS ALIVE AND WELL IN THIS GENERATION.

IF CARTOONING IS AN ART, AND I BELIEVE IT IS, IT IS AN ART OF THE IMMEDIATE. THE CARTOONIST HAS A DEADLINE TO MEET, UNLIKE THOSE WHOSE WORK IS NORMALLY FOUND HERE HE GENERALLY HAS NO TIME FOR PRECISION OF LINE OR SUBLETY OF POINT.

4.

THE SAME IS TRUE OF THE NEWSPAPER PHOTOGRAPHER: HIS OR HER JOB IS TO CAPTURE THE ESSENCE OF AN EVENT IN A MOMENT.

IT'S AN EXACTING JOB, AND SOMETIMES A VERY DANGEROUS ONE REQUIRING THE HIGHEST TECHNICAL EXPERTISE AND AN ARTIST'S EYE FOR THE REVEALING AND ESSENTIAL.

THE REWARDS, IN A MATERIAL SENSE, ARE NOT VERY GREAT. BUT THE SATISFACTIONS CAN BE ENORMOUS.

THE PHOTOGRAPHER WHO IS DEDICATED AND PREPARED TO TAKE RISKS CAN ACT AS THE CONSCIENCE OF AN AGE. MUCH OF OUR AWARENESS OF THE BRUTALITY AND SQUALOR EXAMPLIFIED IN WORDS SUCH AS VIETNAM, BANGLADESH AND ULSTER DERIVES FROM THE WORK OF NEWSPAPER PHOTOGRAPHERS.

THE EXHIBITION MOUNTED HERE TONIGHT CONTAINS SOME OF THE FINEST NEWS PICTURES EVER TAKEN - SOMETIMES SHOCKING, SOMETIMES TOUCHING, SOMETIMES FUNNY, ALWAYS PERCEPTIVE.

TOGETHER THE TWO EXHIBITIONS PROVIDE A MEMORABLE COMMENTARY ON AUSTRALIAN AND WORLD HISTORY. THEY ARE A MOST WORTHY CENTRE-PIECE OF THE NEWS' JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS, AND I HAVE VERY MUCH PLEASURE IN OFFICIALLY DECLARING THEM OPEN.

THANK YOU.